



# THE JOURNAL

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 2011



**Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr.**  
Pastor

**Mrs. Lois Will**

Organist and Music Director

**Mr. Brad Lynch**

Contemporary Music Leader

**Mrs. Nancy Sweeney**

Administrative Assistant

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Saturday Evenings**  
at 5:30 PM

**Sunday Mornings**  
at 8:30AM Traditional  
& 11:00AM Contemporary

*"Rooted In Christ and Overflowing"*



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
Depew, New York

Dear Friends in Christ,



It's hard to believe that September is already upon us. I pray that all of you had an enjoyable summer! As we continue to think about our "Roots in Christ" and our nurturing those roots; I thought I would share some exciting things that are coming up for you and your family to take advantage of.

Of course, the month of September brings back our Christian education programs! **Our kick off this year is September 11th.** Sunday School teachers and Confirmation helpers are asked to attend one of the worship service on that day for a special blessing. Our "Rally Day" celebration will take place at 9:45 and students will have the chance to meet their new teachers and visit their classroom. For those with three and four year olds entering Sunday School for the first time, you wont want to miss the special blessing service on **Sept. 18th** during the 8:30 and 11:00 am services.

Also, beginning this September our Head to Heart Confirmation program will only include 7th and 8th graders. Confirmation theme events will take place every other Wednesday from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

In addition to the start-up of Christian education we have some pretty awe-

some family ministry activities planned. I hope that you might mark your calendar **NOW** and plan to join us for some of these great "fall" opportunities.

**Youth Camp Out**– Friday September 23-Saturday September 24th. The youth of the congregation are invited to attend a fun weekend get-away at Broadway Hope in Lancaster. Jen Flanders is coordinating the event.

**Taste of St. John's**– Have a favorite dish? Interested in sharing it and maybe winning a prize for it? Join us for this first time event on Friday October 7th, 2011 from 6-8pm.

**2nd Annual Trunk or Treat**– Saturday October 29th from 12-2pm. Children are invited to dress up and trunk-n-treat in a safe environment. We are hoping to have at least 50 cars decorated this year! Watch for sign-up sheets in the near future!

I don't know about you, but I think we've got some exciting times ahead of us. I look forward to seeing all of you in worship, I look forward to growing with you in Christ, and I hope to see many of you these fun activities that are soon to be here! Save the dates now! You don't want to miss out!

*Pastor Gal +*

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Christian Education Sunday (Rally Day) Sept. 11** Our services this weekend include a celebration of the opportunities we have at St. John's to grow in faith as we study God's Word together and include prayers for those who lead in our Sunday School and Bible Classes. The Christian life can never be static, but is always growing. The hymns, the prayers and the message will focus on our opportunities for such growth. Our Sunday School staff, Adult and Youth Bible Class leaders and Confirmation Team will be blessed during the Sunday services.

**Entering Sunday School Faith Stepping Stone:** will take place during both services on **September 18<sup>th</sup>** as we ask God's blessing on those entering Sunday School for the first time.

**Commitment Sunday– (September 24 and 25):** Worship this weekend will focus on the opportunity for us to consecrate our lives anew in service to God as we remember how he richly provides for us and consider how we can return to him through our times, abilities, and financial resources. During these services we will have the opportunity to set goals for our gifts to him in 2012 and we will place our pledges at the altar asking God to bless them.

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Serve the LORD cheerfully.  
Come into his presence  
with a joyful song.  
Psalm 100:2

ELDERS			
Date	5:30pm (Sat)	8:30am (Sun)	11:00 (Sun)
September 3 & 4	John Sweeney	John Sweeney	Paul will
September 10 & 11	Peter Blackwell	John Sweeney	Paul Will
September 17 & 18	Rick Thurnherr	John Sweeney	Paul Will
September 24 & 25	Tom Bluhm	John Sweeney	Paul Will
October 1 & 2	Betty Cavaleri	John Sweeney	Paul Will

ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER			
Date	5:30pm (Sat)	8:30am (Sun)	11:00am (Sun)
September 3 & 4	Tyler Deuschle	Max Castiglione	<b>Erika Ekstrum</b>
September 10 & 11		Brandon Wright	Gillian Harla
September 17 & 18		Angel Bushey	Tyler Kent
September 24 & 25		Glenn Stever	Bradley Barnes
October 1 & 2		Kyle Tirone	Hope Cousins

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Member Class-** A new **Adult Information Class** for people who would like to learn more about the Lutheran Church and/or consider membership at St. John's will begin Wednesday, September 28 at 7:00 PM with a class to introduce the course and set future meeting dates and times. Anyone is welcome to come and explore the basics of God's message to us in Holy Scripture and consider whether you wish to continue your faith journey with us at St. John's. **If you have questions, would like more information, or would like to register for the class, call Pastor Galen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT

**Youth Group Camp Out**— Members of the youth group are invited to attend a special camp-out at Broadway Hope (near Greenfield in Lancaster) from September 23rd-september 24th. Details are forthcoming. Contact Jen Flanders if you are interested in attending or if you have any questions.

**Praise Band**— Do you have a musical talent? Would you like to serve your Lord and the people at St. John's by utilizing your talent? The St. John's praise band is looking for volunteers to sing or play in instrument on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am. The band rehearses once a week on Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. Please contact Brad Lynch in you are interested in helping out.

**Note from the Trustees**— Please be sure to use your contribution envelopes if you have them. Tracking down numbers and names when using other envelopes are very time consuming for the counters and we want to be sure that the right numbers and amounts are credited to the right members,

## “CONSECRATION WEEKEND”

Saturday September 24th & Sunday September 25th

“He Knows What You Need”

In recent years we've pondered the meaning of Christian Stewardship from a number of interrelated perspectives, including that each of us is a unique & vital member of the body of Christ (Romans 12:4-6a) and that in employing our unique gifts in service to one another we are actually serving our Lord Himself (Matt 25:40).

The theme verses selected for the 2011-12 Stewardship Consecration Weekend...

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 32b ...indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matt 6:25 & 32b-33)

... while very much building upon this real-world, how-do-I-actually-do-this-stuff-in-my-daily-life approach to Christian Stewardship, do so from a very personal perspective: the perspective of TRUST. Trust that, every moment of every day, the Lord loves you (not “He loves all of His creation”... I mean “He loves you”). Trust that the Lord will provide for your needs. Trust that the Lord in fact already knows what you need.

The old song “Seek Ye First” tells us, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things will be gathered unto you.” But in the economic & political times in which we live, it can be very difficult & uncomfortable to place our trust so completely in another, even if that other is The Lord of All Creation. But it is precisely during such times that it is most important to do so. Because it is only through trusting Him and His ability and willingness to provide for us that we become truly free to serve Him... and others.

And all He needs from us in return is our trust.

**Frank & Donna Licursi**— They have spent weeks cleaning, and decorating, all Sunday School rooms, with pictures and new bulletin boards and paint. Thanks for a great job!!

**Tom & Sue Bluhm**— The grounds around the church have looked so beautiful all summer long. Sue, thank you for tending to the flowers and Tom thanks for working so hard on the lawn!

**Jim & Chris Sugg**— Thank you for covering the expenses associated with having the carpet in the narthex, and both offices cleaned. Looks great!!

**Steven Saelzler**— Taking the time during his busy schedule to help out with music for our services. on Sundays, while Lois was healing from hand surgery. What a great gift God has given him.

### 2011-2012 SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday School Begins a New Year on Rally Day, Sept. 11** All parents are invited to join us for our moving-up ceremonies during our Rally Day program at 9:45 AM. Children should report to the sanctuary where new students will be registered. We strongly recommend that children stay in the same grade as their class at school. Children three years old and up may register for Sunday School. We will be distributing a *Sunday School Handbook* to each family with children enrolled in Sunday School which includes a calendar, a list of staff and policy information.

#### 2011-1012 Sunday School Staff

**Superintendent:** Chandra Jagielo  
**Assistant Superintendent:** Linda Garrison  
**Music Director:** Beth Lasky  
**Pre-K:** Colleen Kilanowski and Kim Richardson  
 Asst. Nicole Miller  
**Kindergarten:** Christine Sugg  
**Grades 1-2:** Andrea Irvine  
 Asst. Candi Possinger  
**Grades 3:** Chris Ekstrum  
 Asst. Nicole Farelli

**Grade 5:** Donna Licursi  
**Grade 6:** Deann Surface  
**Grades 7-8:** John Sweeney  
 Paul Will  
**High School:**  
**Special Ed:** Pat Suhr  
**Adult:** Pastor Galen  
**Sub Teachers:** Sue Ehrenreich  
 Jean Radder  
 Jennifer Purpura

#### MARRIAGES

**Shane Szczesek and Ashley Merkt**  
 (August 20, 2011)  
  
**Scott Delany and Kristen Sion**  
 (Sept 2, 2011)

#### BAPTISMS

Jocelyn Visnesky (June 26, 2011)	Karla Kicak (August 7, 2011)
Jason Deutschlander (July 3, 2011)	Robert Corell (August 12, 2011)
Ella Silakowski (July 16, 2011)	Matthew Sundberg (August 14, 2011)

**Official Acts...**

**AUGUST RADIO SPONSORSHIPS****Brian & Candi Possinger**

*In celebration of their 10th wedding anniversary and God's blessing to Lucas on his 5th birthday,  
(August 7, 2011)*

**A Friend and devoted listener**

*In appreciation of St. John's radio broadcasts.  
(August 14, 2011)*

**The Charles Dowd Family**

*In memory of Charles Dowd  
(August 21, 2011)*

**Madeline Steinhoff**

*In loving memory of sister Eileen and in celebration of son,  
Tom's birthday  
(August 21, 2011)*

**Jim & Trudy Possinger**

*In thanksgiving to God for all his blessings as we celebrate our birthdays, Brian & Candi's 10th wedding anniversary, and God's special blessing to our family.  
(August 28, 2011)*

**AUGUST FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR****Susan & Dan Vriesen**

*Thanking God for our wonderful sons, Jeremy & Jimm on their birthdays.  
(August 7, 2011)*

**Betty Wilson**

*In thanksgiving to God for all his blessings for a wonderful family  
(August 14, 2011)*

**Tom & Sue Bluhm**

*For all of God's blessing and in celebration of Dylan and Tyler's birthday  
(August 21, 2011)*

**The Members of St. John's**

*To the glory of God  
(August 28, 2011)*

**Partner in Mission—La Santa Cruz**

*Each month this year we wish to focus on one of the areas of mission supported by St. John's either at present or in the past. We will have a brief article about the mission in St. John's Journal and in the bulletin and will include that mission in our prayers each week that month. During September our mission focus is on la Santa Cruz Ministry. The update below was featured in a recent Eastern District publication.*

A mission effort headed by Pastor Javier Florez, his wife, Marleny, Rebecca Degenfelder and other members of La Santa Cruz. They minister to Hispanic families in Buffalo at Nazareth Lutherna Church. Their goal is to share the Gospel with their Hispanic neighbors, while meeting social needs of the community, bridging younger families and operating with cultural sensitivity. Recently Rebecca Degenfelder, an integral part of the ministry of La Santa Cruz, suffered a stroke. While she is regaining her strength her daughter shared with me the following example of the ministry:

On July 10, 2011 the youth program of la Santa Cruz in Buffalo, NY attended a picnic at Pioneer Camp in Angola, NY. The picnic was a part of Pioneer Camp's 20th Annual Summerfest Day. Two services were attended, one of the services was held in the woods and the beauty of God's creation was truly stunning. There were many activities at the event including; swimming, boating, bounce houses & face painting for the children, in addition to rock climbing, a Chinese auction and a good old fashioned BBQ. Pastor Florez gave a sermon at lunch time right before everyone ate. All in all 25 members of La Santa Cruz Church attended the event.

Thanks to the member churches of the district, whose contributions to the district allow for programs such as La Santa Cruz.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |   |  |    |  |    |   |
|---|--|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Gerald Radder<br>Linda Garrison<br>Matthew Bluhm                   | 8  | Jason Vargo<br>Tyler Kent<br>Helen Nelson      | 24 | Sandra Tirone<br>Sue Vriesen<br>Carol Pleban            |
| 2 | Beth Lasky<br>Trudy Possinger<br>Kelly Mayback                     | 10 | Terrence Boyle<br>Kathy Harrington             | 25 | Ava Purpura<br>Donald Symer                             |
| 3 | Zachary Richardson<br>Georgina Ackley                              | 11 | Christopher Purpura                            | 26 | Elgene Peck<br>Bradley Barnes<br>Mary Suttell           |
| 4 | Nancy Bartel<br>Joseph Manna                                       | 12 | Louis Yannello<br>Morgan Dannheim              | 27 | Donna McNett<br>Ronald Cumbo                            |
| 5 | Charles Blackwell<br>Irma Engler<br>Mary Sue Tichy<br>Sarah Winant | 14 | Christine Ekstrum                              | 28 | Jerome Bernfield Sr.<br>Kyle Harrington<br>Matthew Roll |
| 6 | Kenneth Che<br>Chandra Jagielo                                     | 16 | Joy Yaskow<br>Caroline Coffed                  | 29 | Ronald VanDeark<br>Sarah Holz<br>Cheryl Cousins         |
| 7 | Brian VanDeark<br>Brian Roll                                       | 17 | Brandon Wright<br>Shane Garrison               | 30 | Gerald Garrison Jr.<br>Karen Scott                      |
|   |  | 19 | Chrsitine Lagree<br>Jennifer Pesch<br>Kim Roll |    |   |
|   |  | 20 | Gail Kelm<br>Evelyn Wolfe                      |    |   |
|   |  | 21 | Mary Thorp                                     |    |   |

# BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO YOU!

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Edward & Candee Doyle
- 9 Brad & Beth Lynch
- 10 David & Caroline Coffed.
- 11 John & Wendy Garbutt
- 12 Cheryl & Terence McNatty
- 13 Anthony & Heidi Manna
- 15 Robert & Kathy Harrington  
Richard & Darlene Vogel
- 18 Jeffery & Debra Best.  
John & Jane Marone
- 23 Michael & Karen Durning
- 25 Jason & Sharon Vargo

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Thanks to Mary Lou Sacca (See Genesis 2:7-25) 07-27-2001

O WOW, INTERESTING THOUGHT ... I ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT "BECOMING ONE FLESH" MEANT THAT YOU WOULD TAKE UP GOLF

# Happy Anniversary!

# September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 10:00 am- ECHI 6:30 Delany Wdg. rehearsal	<b>2</b> Pastor Galen's Day Off 4p- Delany Wdg.	<b>3</b> 8:00 Men's Group 5:30pm HC 8:00pm A.A.
<b>4</b> 8:30 & <u>11:00am</u> Wor- ship H/C 12:15pm H2H Leaders Huddle	<b>5</b>		<b>7</b> 6:30pm H2H 8:00pm A.A.	<b>8</b> 10:00am ECHI	<b>9</b> Pastor Galen's Day Off	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Wor- ship 8:00pm A.A.
<b>11</b> 8:30 & <u>11:00am</u> Wor- ship Rally Day	<b>12</b> 7:15pm Elders' Meeting	<b>13</b> 6:30-8:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>14</b> 8:00pm A.A.	<b>15</b> 10:00am ECHI	<b>16</b> Pastor Galen's Day Off	<b>17</b> 8:00am Men's Group 5:30 Worship. HC 8:00pm A.A.
<b>18</b> 8:30 & <u>11:00am</u> Worship H/C Entering SS Stepping Stone	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>20</b> 12:00 noon Ladies Bible Class 6:30-8:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> 6:30pm H2H 8:00pm A.A.	<b>22</b> 10:00am- ECHI	<b>23</b> Pastor Galen's Day Off Youth Camp Broadway Hope	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Wor- ship (Commitment Weekend)
<b>25</b> 8:30 & <u>11:00</u> Worship (Commitment Weekend)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30-8:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>28</b> 7pm- Adult Info. Class 8:00pm A.A.	<b>29</b> 10:00am- ECHI 5:30pm CAFE	<b>30</b>	



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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E-mail: [stjohndepew@verizon.net](mailto:stjohndepew@verizon.net)

Rev. Michael C. Blackwell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr, Associate Pastor  
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The Mission of St. John's is grounded in the presence of Christ in God's Word and in the Sacraments. We are called by the Holy Spirit to spread the Kingdom of God through ministering to all of our members and sharing the love of Christ with all people by preaching the true Word of God, providing ongoing Biblical education for spiritual growth and reaching others with God's love in all we say or do.



**President of the Congregation:** Mike Brown

**Board of Elders:**

Peter Blackwell, Tom Bluhm, Betty Cavaleri, Harold Duetschlander, Don Kelm, Donna LaPlante, Rod Lorenz, David Pesch, Tom Sprankle, John Sweeney, Richard Thurnherr, and Paul Will

**Board of Trustees:** Edwin Lorenz, Rob Irvine, and Jim Sugg

**Finacial Director:** Grace Stever

**Secretary of the Church Council:** Kathy Beck

**Shepherd 's Staff:** Wendy Garbutt

**Board of Education:** Candi Possinger

**Chair, Youth and Family Ministries:** Jen Flanders

**Chair, Stewardship Team:** Brad Lynch

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Chandra Jagielo

**Acolyte Coordinator:** Mike Brown, **Altar Guild Chairperson:** Betty Cavaleri,

**Usher chairperson:** Tom Bluhm,

**Communion Assistants:** Peter Blackwell, Paul Will and Tom Bluhm

**Erie County Home Lutheran Fellowship:** Karen Shafer,

**Cradle Roll:** Mary Warner **Prayer Chain:** Beth Lynch, **Organist/Choir Director:** Lois Will , Contemporary Music Leader: Brad Lynch

**Radio Announcers:** Sue Bluhm, Beth Lynch, Karen Pelton, Gary Smith,

**Head to Heart Program Manager:** Kathy Dyke, Ashley Pesch

**Administrative Assistant:** Nancy Sweeney,

**Saturday Musicians:** Brad Lynch, Rudy and Sue Tichy, Paul Blackwell, and Carol Adragna

**Communion Deacons—**Karen Shafer, Deann Surface, Brad & Beth Lynch